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ST. IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1955

THE RIDLEY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE AND ST. IVES.

LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA

Bluntisham	Holywell-cum- Needingworth
Broughton	
Bury	Houghton and Wyton
Colne	Oldhurst
Earith	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Fenstanton	Somersham
Hemingford Abbots	Warboys
Hemingford Grey	Wistow
Hilton	Woodhurst



Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

T. S. Christmas, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Revd. Nelson Trafford.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Vice-Chairman:

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Miss V. M. G. Thackray

Revd. Nelson Trafford

A. White-Robinson, Esq.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

J. G. Reeson, C.S.I.B., M.R.S.I., A.M.I.San.E.,
Cert. Bldg. Insp.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF SAINT IVES
IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1955.

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the
Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Area for the year 1955.

The general health of the district is satisfactory and this is borne out by an examination of the vital statistics for the year under review.

Although the Birth-rate shows a fractional decrease over last year's figures and is still below the national average, there was, nevertheless, a natural increase in that the live births exceeded the deaths by 92—an increase of 10 over last year's figure.

Although the Still Birth-rate is down considerably compared with last year it is still above the average for England and Wales, but it is interesting to note that none of the still births were associated with illegitimacy.

The Death-rate continues its downward trend, and it is a pleasing feature that despite an increased population considerably fewer deaths occurred than last year, when the figure was well below the national average.

It is a source of considerable satisfaction to note that the Infant Mortality Rate is still decreasing and remains well below the figure for England and Wales.

Coronary artery disease accounted for the greatest proportion of deaths, followed at considerable distance by deaths from malignant disease and other heart conditions.

Infectious diseases ran at a reasonably low level throughout the year, with Whooping Cough and then Measles heading the notification lists. Still another year has passed without a case of Diphtheria being diagnosed in the area—the last notified case having occurred in 1943.

One case of paralytic poliomyelitis, a child aged five years, was admitted to the Peterborough Isolation Hospital. On discharge the child had some weakness of the left thigh and arrangements were made for her to attend the Orthopaedic Out-Patients' Clinic.

In the field of environmental hygiene the progress of previous years has been well maintained. The policy of making housing improvement grants has resulted in more houses being brought up to modern standards. Private enterprise has been responsible for the erection of a considerable number of houses while the Council's own programme has been proceeding.

Attention has been given to slum clearance, which will be accelerated in the process of time.

Although the mains water-supply has been available throughout the district its capacity is being taxed by the limited source, although the Board concerned is taking active steps to augment it. With the development in the district further water-supplies must be obtained.

So far as main drainage is concerned the Somersham scheme is proceeding, but it is regretted that national financial circumstances prevented a start being made on the second instalment for parts of three riverside parishes.

In conclusion, I should like to thank Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration to me during the year, and all Officers of the Council for their continual help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Population (middle 1955)	14,920
Population (middle 1954)	14,680
Area	45,911 acres
Rateable value (April 1955)	£64,259
Sum represented by a penny rate (Net Product)	£259 17 6
Number of inhabited houses	4,116

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Legitimate ...	110	83	193	13·7
Illegitimate ...	6	5	11	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 15·0
Total ...	116	88	204	

Still Births

Legitimate ...	5	1	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	28·6
Total ...	5	1	6	(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 23·1

Deaths

(all ages) ...	61	51	112	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population
				7·5
				(Ditto for England and Wales) ... 11·7

Deaths of Infants under one year

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate ...	2	2	4
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total	2	2	4

Death-rates of Infants under one year

All infants per 1,000 live births	19·6
(Ditto for England and Wales)	24·9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births ...	20·7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ...	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Causes	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	1	0
3	Syphilitic	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasite diseases	1	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	5
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	1
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	6	6
18	Coronary disease, angina	22	10
19	Hypertension with heart disease	2	0
20	Other heart disease	4	10
21	Other circulatory disease	2	3
22	Influenza	0	1
23	Pneumonia	3	2
24	Bronchitis	0	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	7
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
34	All other accidents	0	1
35	Suicide	1	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Total all causes ...		61	51

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to the Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.,
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases.

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 226) attended cases in Earith, Bluntisham, Colne and Holywell-cum-Needingworth.
- (v) A nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (vi) A nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2228) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Room, Somersham. Baptist Chapel, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2.30-3 p.m. Every Wednesday (ex- cept 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10.30 a.m.-12 noon. 2-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4-6.30 p.m. Males: Mondays, 5.30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, 5.30-7 p.m. Females: Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) **Hospital Services**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Fever.—As from May, 1955, facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases are provided by the Isolation Hospitals at Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases.—Following the closing of Paxton Park Maternity Hospital at St. Neots in September, 1955, cases are now admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	37	41	5	3	1	17	2	106
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	7	73	18	98

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years:—

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1-4 1954-1951	5-9 1950-1946	10-14 1945-1941	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster).					
A. 1951-1955	1	374	507	496	1378
B. 1950 or earlier	—	—	370	430	800

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1955: **45**

Pulmonary: **30**

Non-Pulmonary: **15**

AGE PERIODS				New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
				Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	I	..	I	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..
Totals	..	..	..	I	2	—	2	—	—	I	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

							Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							—
							80
							—

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) **Water.**—Water is supplied to the district by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board, the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board and by Huntingdon Rural District Council.

The anticipated progress in the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Board's scheme for the supply of 250,000 gallons per day from the Cambridge Water Company was held up owing to objections being lodged by the occupiers of land through which the trunk mains was to be laid. Ultimately the Minister held a Public Inquiry, and after hearing the objections decided that the route should remain unaltered.

The Cambridge Water Company have laid that part of the trunk main which it was agreed they should do, and the remaining "cross country" main from Cambridge to Blunfisham should be commenced in 1956.

The rainfall during the year, as officially recorded at the R.A.F. Station Wyton, was 16.13 inches, as against the high recording of 29.19 inches in 1954, and the average rainfall of 21.5 inches.

The level of the water in the river gravels consequently dropped considerably.

It was not found necessary to restrict the supply of water for either domestic or industrial purposes, but the margin of supply over demand in those parishes which are supplied by the Ramsey and St. Ives Joint Water Board is very small and consumption due to further housing development in the area increased steadily.

All the water supplied is very hard indeed, and constant attention is necessary to remove scale from domestic boilers.

The increased consumption in the low-lying fen areas of some parishes has resulted in a marked diminution in the pressure of the water in the parishes of Oldhurst and Woodhurst, which problem is receiving the attention of the Council.

Short lengths of subsidiary mains were laid to new housing estates and a number of farms were connected during the year.

Routine samples from all the supplies indicated that the purity of the water was satisfactory. Eighty-three samples were taken during the year, of which four were unsatisfactory. Subsequent samples taken from the same points were found to be satisfactory.

One sample of water was taken from a private well which was found to be satisfactory.

A summary of the water supplies to each parish is given below.

WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Source of Supply	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Results of Analyses	Number of Analyses
1. Bluntisham	Public mains	Adequate	Good	Satisfactory	83 samples taken from mains supply.
2. Broughton	" "	"	"	"	
3. Bury	" "	"	"	"	
4. Colne	" "	"	"	"	
5. Earith	" "	"	"	"	4 samples unsatisfactory.
6. Fenstanton	" "	"	"	"	
7. Hemingford Abbots	" "	"	"	"	Repeat samples satisfactory
8. Hemingford Grey	" "	"	"	"	
9. Hilton	" "	"	"	"	
10. Holywell-cum-Needlingworth	" "	"	"	"	
11. Houghton & Wyton	" "	"	"	"	
12. Oldhurst	" "	"	"	"	
13. Pidley-cum-Fenton	" "	"	"	"	
14. Somersham	" "	"	"	"	
15. Warboys	" "	"	"	"	Fen Area Unsatisfactory
16. Wistow	" "	"	"	"	
17. Woodhurst	(with excep Public mains	tion of Fen Adequate	Area) Good	Satisfactory	

1. (2) Drainage and Sewerage.—The work on the Main Drainage Scheme for Somersham proceeded, but the rate of progress towards completion was hampered by shortage of labour and difficult ground conditions.

The Council advertised for tenders for the Sewerage Scheme for Houghton, Wyton and Hemingford Abbots, and provisionally accepted the lowest tender, subsequently the contractors intimated that owing to labour difficulties they would be unable to enter into a contract for the work, and following consultations with the Ministry the Scheme was deferred. Later during the year the Council considered their programme of capital expenditure and decided to proceed with the Houghton Scheme and those for Warboys and Fenstanton as soon as practicable.

The Council are also prepared to make arrangements with the Ramsey Urban District Council to provide main drainage to that part of the parish of Bury that can be connected to Ramsey's sewers as and when the latter's scheme is being prepared, and have instructed the Council's Engineers to submit proposals for consideration.

The need for main drainage is even more urgent as an increasing proportion of the houses in the district are converted to the water-carriage system.

The small sewage disposal plants constructed to treat sewage from the Council's Housing Estates have continued to give useful service, but the effluents are not satisfactory.

2. Rivers and Streams.—The River Ouse, which flows through the district, is the responsibility of the Great Ouse River Board. With the commencement of sewage disposal schemes in the towns up river from the Hemingfords and Houghton, it is to be hoped that the quality of the water in these reaches will improve in the future.

The Council continue to deny any responsibility for the maintenance of awarded watercourses in the district that were awarded to the Surveyor of Highways. The County Council also denies any liability for their maintenance.

The Council, through the Rural District Councils' Association, have made every effort to clarify the position, but an impasse has now been reached.

Some of these watercourses are heavily polluted with sewage in their lower reaches.

Some ditches that are polluted with sewage were cleansed during the year.

Following representations to the County Council regarding the repeated flooding of the Causeway at Earith, the County Council stated that the construction of a new bridge over the River Ouse and the reconstruction of this Causeway were included in their Roadworks programme for 1959-1960.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation.—Steady progress in the conversion of E.C.'s to W.C.'s continued during the year mainly due to the additional applications for Housing Improvement Grants.

3. (2) Public Cleansing.

(a) A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 2,000 pails being emptied each week.

The night-soil is partially distributed over agricultural land, but the bulk is injected into the sewers at Oldhurst, where it passes after suitable dilution through the sewage works purchased by the Council from the Ministry of Works.

By arrangement with Huntingdon Borough, night-soil is collected from Hartford and Huntingdon, approximately 145 pails being emptied each week.

By arrangement with St. Ives Borough Council, night-soil is collected from approximately 90 houses in the Borough, this service being carried out as far as practicable after dark.

It is getting increasingly difficult to find labour for this service, but the collections were maintained according to schedule throughout the year.

(b) **Cesspool Emptying.**—The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying as are used for the night-soil service.

During the year, 547 cesspools were emptied, 100 more than in 1954, and the majority of this work is carried out from Thursday to Sunday.

The work done included the frequent emptying of large septic tanks in industrial premises holding up to 25,000 gallons.

The standard charge of 25s. for each 750-gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads remained the same.

The service is made available to neighbouring Authorities for desludging sewage tanks, gully and cesspool emptying at agreed charges.

(c) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—The weekly kerbside collection of refuse throughout the district continued during the year, and a satisfactory service was maintained. Two 15 cubic yard moving-floor vehicles and one 10 cubic yard side-loader are used for the collections.

The refuse is tipped at two worked-out gravel pits situated at Hemingford Grey and Somersham. The land available for tipping is adequate for the next few years, and there are several other gravel pits in the district that could ultimately be filled, unfortunately these are all situated in the southern end of the district, and the length of the haul to tip will be more than doubled when the Somersham tip is filled.

The refuse is spread and levelled by means of a bulldozer and earth cover is available on the sites for sealing.

Periodic baiting is undertaken to control rats, and insecticides are sprayed to control crickets and flies.

Contract work for more frequent collections of house and trade refuse was undertaken at two large R.A.F. Stations situated in the district.

By arrangement with St. Ives Borough Council, a weekly kerbside collection of house and trade refuse is carried out by contract.

The total number of dustbins emptied each week is approximately 4,950.

Salvage.—No special salvage collections were made, but materials to the value of £47, consisting mostly of textiles and scrap-iron, were sold.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(a) Housing Inspections:—

Under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	...	283
Re-inspections ...	...	...	15
Number of Preliminary Notices served ...	...	...	45
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with ...	...	...	40
Number of Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with ...	...	...	—

An intensive survey of Somersham was completed in 1955, following the commencement of the main drainage scheme and the Council's decision to pay up to 50% of the approved cost of the conversion of E.C.'s to W.C.'s, and there will be a considerable improvement in the sanitary conditions of this village when the scheme is completed.

Owners are reluctant to carry out improvements to old property and notices requiring the execution of works to maintain such houses were again limited to essential repairs.

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	11	12	—	Nil
2. Section 7	34	38	1	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	45	50	1	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Number of cases in which defects were:—

Defect	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Overcrowding ..	0	0	0	0
Temperature ..	0	0	0	0
Ventilation ..	0	0	0	0
Drainage of floors ..	0	0	0	0
Insufficient sanitary accommodation	0	0	0	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	1	1	0	0
Other offences ..	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Total ..	2	2	0	1
	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) **Inspections under Regulations, etc.:—**

Moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	135
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Offensive trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	145
Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Pumps, wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Council houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Housing sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Meat from outside district	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Petroleum stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
After infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Food bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	197
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Total							1,548

As a result of the inspections recorded above, 190 informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of premises requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character, and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

3. (4) Camping Sites.—Four licences for camping sites were renewed by the Council. The sites were all maintained in a satisfactory manner and are provided with mains water-supply, adequate sanitary accommodation and refuse bins.

Licences for the stationing of 26 caravans in various parts of the district were granted by the Council.

One application for the use of a site for 4 caravans was refused, and several licences were granted subject to the applicant obtaining the necessary permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

The usual number of itinerant van dwellers came into the eastern and northern parts of the district for the harvest and moved from farm to farm as they obtained casual work.

3. (5) **Swimming Baths.**—There are no public baths in the area, but a number of people continue to bathe in the River Ouse, which is fairly heavily contaminated with sewage.

3. (6) **Rodent Control.**—Although the Council does not employ a rodent operator, and it is therefore impossible to carry out regular inspections and surveys under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, a number of properties were baited during the year with Warfarin and other poisons, the work carried out by the Department is summarised in the following table:—

	(1) Local Authority	Type of Property			Agricultural
		(2) Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (Including Council Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Survey under the Act	3	60	18	81	20
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	760	95	855	—
2. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	54	860	160	1074	35
3. Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats { Major ..	2	56	4	62	15
{ Minor ..	—	6	—	6	4
4. Number of infested properties treated	2	62	4	68	19
5. Total treatments carried out—including retreatments	8	186	12	206	57
6. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	62	4	68	19
(b) Structural work ..	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings ..	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out:	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING

1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

- | | | |
|---------|--|--------|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 283 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 298 |
|
(2) | (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 |
31 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 36 |
|
(3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation |
27 |
|
(4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation |
49 |

2 Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	39
--	----

3 Action under statutory powers during the year:—

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | |
|---------|--|-------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. | 15 |
|
(2) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders |
0 |

Housing (General).

The number of inhabited houses in the district increased from 4,036 in 1954 to 4,116, and the rate at which new houses are being erected by the Council and Private Enterprise was maintained.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of new council houses and private houses since 1954:—

					Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	...	...	...	18	10
1947	...	...	...	...	47	29
1948	...	...	...	...	50	19
1949	...	...	...	...	47	15
1950	...	...	...	...	47	21
1951	...	...	...	...	25	8
1952	...	...	...	...	56	2
1953	...	...	...	...	50	23
1954	...	...	...	...	74	23
1955	...	...	...	...	63	17
					<hr/> 477 <hr/>	<hr/> 167 <hr/>

The total number of council houses at the end of the year was 895, plus three temporary dwellings.

It was hoped that the remaining temporary dwellings would have been demolished during the year, but this was not possible. Sixty-two have been dealt with since 1950 as the Council have erected new houses.

The Council's programme of new housing since 1945 has been such that at the end of the year the number of families on the housing application list that were living in rooms had been substantially reduced. But the population in the district is steadily increasing and a number of new applications for houses were received from persons who had recently found employment in the area.

Following the publication of the Housing Subsidies Bill the Council decided to proceed with a programme for the erection of 64 houses and bungalows in the following parishes:—

Warboys, 8

Bury, 8

Earith, 16

Somersham, 30

Consideration was given to the adoption of a differential rent scheme for the Council's houses, and, ultimately, the Council adopted a rebate scheme which came into operation in 1956.

The standard rents were fixed at sums ranging from £2 os. 6d. for a post-war 4-bedroom house to 15s. for a one-bedroom pre-war bungalow.

The Council considered its slum clearance programme following a report to them of the general housing conditions in the area, and the Ministry was informed that there was an estimated number of 326 unfit houses in the district, of which 296 would be dealt with as individual unfit houses and 30 by means of a Clearance Area.

This is an extensive programme that is long overdue and will require considerable extra effort on the part of the Department to carry out.

Detailed inspections of these properties were commenced in 1955, and 27 houses were represented as unfit and dealt with under Section 11. Demolition Orders were made on 15 of these houses, and the Council accepted undertakings from the owners of the remaining 12 houses that they would not be relet until they had been made fit.

During the year 49 applications for Improvement Grants were received and in 41 cases grants amounting to a total of £7,970 were accepted by the applicants. The average grant per house being £194.

The Council made an advance secured by mortgage in respect of one house under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

There has been no change in the milk retailed in the district, the bulk of which is supplied and distributed by two firms, both of whom operate high-temperature short-time Pasteurisation Plants.

Dealer's and Supplementary Licences authorising the sale of milk under special designations were granted as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	... ..	7
Pasteurised	... ..	7
Sterilised	... ..	4

(b) **Ice Cream.**

There is one licensed manufacturer in the district, but practically all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well-known firms.

(c) **Meat and other Foods.**

Number of licensed Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	4
Number of Butchers' shops	...	...	...	10

With the exception of one emergency slaughter of a heifer which was totally condemned, the only animals slaughtered in the four remaining slaughter-houses in the district were about 4 sheep per week and an occasional pig, and practically all the meat sold in the district is slaughtered at the Public Abbatoir in Saint Ives Borough, and the following tables summarise the inspections and condemnations during the year:—

			Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	..	..	941	8	483	2578	—
Number inspected	..	..	941	8	483	2578	—

(All diseases except tuberculosis):—

Whole carcasses condemned	..	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	78	—	26	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	..	..	8.1%	—	5.4% 3.7%

(Tuberculosis only):—

Whole carcasses condemned	..	2	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	38	1	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	..	..	4.2%	12.5%	— 1.2%

Cysticercosis:—

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	..	1	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	..	1	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	..	..	—	—

Weights of Condemned Meat.

			Condemnations			
		Number killed	Number of whole carcases	Weight of whole carcases	Weight of Parts and Organs	Total Weight
Cattle	.. ..	941	2	1476 lb.	2581 lb.	4057 lb.
Calves	.. ..	8	—	—	6 lb.	6 lb.
Sheep and Lambs	..	483	—	—	55 lb.	55 lb.
Pigs	.. ..	2578	2	258 lb.	573 lb.	831 lb.
Total		4010	4	1734 lb.	3215 lb.	4949 lb.

Total animals killed: 4,010.

Total meat condemned: 2 tons 4 cwts. 0 qrts. 21 lb.

The quality of home-killed meat in the shops was very good, and it is very unusual for any cow-beef to be sold.

Routine examination and condemnations of other foods were carried out and a wide variety of foods were inspected.

The following were condemned:—

Bacon	...	...	...	6 lb.
Meat	...	...	...	607 lb.
3 tins of meat	...	...	...	36½ lb.
Dried Apricots	...	...	...	56 lb.
Raisins	...	...	...	30 lb.
Dried Figs	...	...	...	28 lb.

Adulteration.

Huntingdon County Council are the primary authority for the administration of those provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to adulteration. No special circumstances arose where it was considered that any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.



